

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 MC-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

ACDA-05 IGA-01 NEA-09 SAM-01 IO-10 /079 W

----- 085684

O 171206Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9563

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 0656

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS ET US

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN AMMO RESUPPLY

REF: STATE 058886

1. GAVE COPIES PRESS GUIDANCE (MODIFIED BY STATE 58897 AND ADDIS 3092) TO FONMIN USEC MIRGHANI AT 10:30Z MARCH 17, STRESSING MINIMAL NATURE OUR ACTION. IT WAS BEING COUPLED WITH STRONG USG ENCOURAGEMENT TO EPMG AND OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED TO PURSUE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. ADDED THAT I KNEW WASHINGTON WAS PLEASED TO NOTE EPMG'S AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO SUDANESE INITIATIVE. WE HOPED GOS MIGHT BE WILLING PASS OUR GUIDANCE SOONEST TO LOCAL ELF/PLF OFFICIALS, EMPHASIZING MODEST NATURE OUR ACTION AND OUR CONTINUED STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL HANDS TO NEGOTIATE TOWARD PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

2. MIRGHANI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR USG CONSIDERATION IN INFORMING GOS IN ADVANCE PRESS INFO. EPMG WAS, HOWEVER, BEING "SLOW" IN PURSUING SUDANESE MEDIATION INITIATIVE (SEE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM). IT MIGHT BE WELL TO REQUIRE SOME CONCRETE
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MOVE BY ETHIOPIA IN THIS DIRECTION IN CONNECTION WITH

PROPOSED AMMO RESUPPLY. I CALLED ATTENTION TO STATEMENT IN GUIDANCE THAT WE HAVE EXPRESSED TO EPMG STRONG HOPE RE EARLY DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. MIRGHANI SAID THERE NO SIGNIFICANT ERITREAN REPRESENTATIVES CURRENTLY IN KHARTOUM BUT HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO HAVE GUIDANCE PASSED TO HIGHER ECHELONS OF ELF/PLF. HE THOUGHT BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS PREFERABLE POINTS FOR CONTACT, AND I CONFIRMED EMBASSY BEIRUT ALSO TAKING ACTION. MIRGHANI COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT WE HAD DONE MINIMUM REQUIRED BY SITUATION BUT HE DOUBTED ELF/PLF WOULD AGREE. IN FACT, HE EXPECTED LATTER WOULD CHARGE THAT PUBLICITY RE AMMUNITION RESUPPLY WAS MERELY SMOKESCREEN FOR MAJOR USG MILITARY AID TO EPMG. I SAID THAT, IF SO, ERITREANS WOULD BE MAKING GRAVE MISTAKE, SINCE IN FACT ALL THAT WAS INVOLVED WAS PERMITTING EPMG BUY MODERATE AMOUNT AMMUNITION FOR HARD CASH.

3. COMMENT. BELIEVE GOS MAY ENDEAVOR PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO SENIOR ELF/PLF OFFICIALS INSIDE ERITREA BUT THIS LIKELY TAKE TIME. THERE WAS NO INDICATION FROM CONVERSATION THAT GOS TAKES ISSUE WITH OUR DECISION.

BREWER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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